

Date: January 22, 2016

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: 2015 Citywide Reported Crime Statistics

PH West

R. Luna

OVERVIEW

This memorandum has been prepared to present you with the year-end citywide crime statistics and strategies being employed to address crime in the City of Long Beach. In 2015, like much of the region, Long Beach experienced a rise in crime and ended the year with a 15.9% increase in Total Part 1 crime when compared to 2014. Violent crime statistics reflect an increase of 18.8% and property crime statistics reflect an increase of 15.4%. Aggravated assaults primarily contributed to the increase in violent crime and auto thefts accounted for most of the property crime increase. Of the 36 murders that occurred in 2015, 17 were gang-related. Auto thefts accounted for most of the property crime increase. Reductions were seen in four property crime categories: residential burglary (-11%), garage burglary (-7.2%), commercial burglary (-12.1%), and arson (-8.2%). Although there is an overall increase in crime from the previous year, the crime rate remains relatively low when compared to overall historical crime statistics. For more detailed information, see attached reports.

Regional experts are currently debating the correlation between spikes in crime and legislative changes, such as Proposition 47, AB 109 and Proposition 36, which reduced prison and jail populations and reduced many felony crimes to misdemeanors, thereby leaving more offenders on the street. These changes are viewed as having a negative impact on our ability to manage crime and, without additional county and state support for alternatives to incarceration, criminal activity is expected to continue to rise.

STRATEGIES

Deployment of Resources

The Police Department is data driven and continues to focus deployment efforts and departmental resources to maximize the impact against violent and property crime. Our crime analysts study and analyze crime patterns and trends to help direct resources to the areas where the greatest impact will be made to prevent and deter crime. In addition, utilizing the allocation of one-time funds, the Department strategically deployed officers to impact gang activity and quality of life issues.

Education and Outreach

The Police Department utilized education and community outreach efforts to engage the community in crime fighting efforts. The Department supported Community Watch groups and regularly met with neighborhood and business associations to discuss current issues and ways to protect themselves and their property. We continued to promote the "See Something, Say Something" philosophy, encouraging community members to immediately report suspicious activity. Department personnel also emphasized the importance of securing property and removing valuables from plain sight in an effort to reduce crimes of opportunity. The use of mobile technology and social media to connect with the community also increased the Department's overall crime prevention outreach.

Public Safety Continuum

As part of the Public Safety Continuum, all City departments work as a team to promote public safety. In 2015, several initiatives were implemented, including: late night park activation, a rotating mini-resource center, focused police resource deployment in impacted neighborhoods, and the READY Long Beach community preparedness expo. Additionally, grant funding through the City's Violence Prevention Plan, supported projects aimed at promoting youth violence prevention strategies, improving school attendance, and helping to break the cycle of violence. The Plan specifically focused on reducing violent crime in neighborhoods where aggravated assaults were typically higher.

CLOSING

As we move forward into 2016, we will continue to look for new technology, innovative strategies, and ideas to combat crime. The Police Department is committed to serving the community, reducing crime, and will continue to build public safety partnerships to achieve a safe city for all.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or my Chief of Staff, Commander Rich Conant, at extension 87301.

RGL:KO:cma
TFF2015YearEndCrimeStats

(2) Attachments

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Laura L. Doud, City Auditor
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
Rebecca Jimenez, Assistant to the City Manager
Department Heads



LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
PART I CRIMES
CITYWIDE
DECEMBER 2015

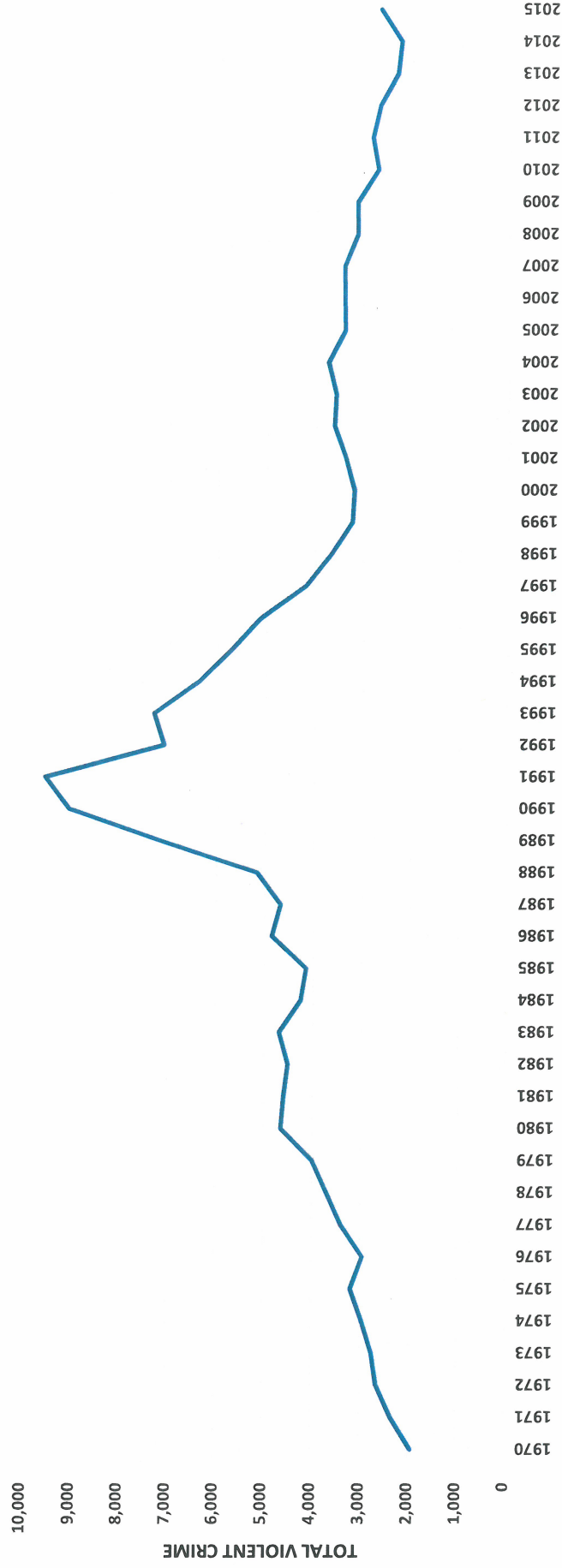


VIOLENT CRIME		DECEMBER 2015				YTD			
		2015	2014	#	%	2015	2014	#	%
	Murder	5	2	3	150.0%	36	23	13	56.5%
	Revised Rape*	14	N/A	N/A	N/A	179	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Historical Rape	10	9	1	11.1%	121	110	11	10.0%
	Robbery	87	90	-3	-3.3%	1055	888	167	18.8%
	Agg Assault	105	118	-13	-11.0%	1484	1248	236	18.9%
	TOTAL	207	219	-12	-5.5%	2696	2269	427	18.8%

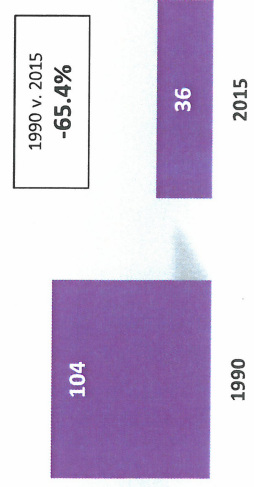
PROPERTY CRIME		DECEMBER 2015				YTD			
		2015	2014	#	%	2015	2014	#	%
	Res Burg	217	185	32	17.3%	1936	2175	-239	-11.0%
	Garage Burg	31	35	-4	-11.4%	334	360	-26	-7.2%
	Comm Burg	89	57	32	56.1%	829	943	-114	-12.1%
	Auto Burg	220	181	39	21.5%	2025	1852	173	9.3%
	Grand Theft	138	75	63	84.0%	1590	1223	367	30.0%
	Petty Theft >\$50	60	56	4	7.1%	876	647	229	35.4%
	Petty Theft <\$50	318	324	-6	-1.9%	3243	2531	712	28.1%
	Bike Theft	24	51	-27	-52.9%	690	623	67	10.8%
	GTA	269	173	96	55.5%	2788	2034	754	37.1%
	Arson	3	3	0	0.0%	56	61	-5	-8.2%
	TOTAL	1,369	1,140	229	20.1%	14,367	12,449	1,918	15.4%

TOTAL PART I		DECEMBER 2015				YTD			
		2015	2014	#	%	2015	2014	#	%
	Violent Crime	207	219	-12	-5.5%	2,696	2,269	427	18.8%
	Property Crime	1,369	1,140	229	20.1%	14,367	12,449	1,918	15.4%
	TOTAL	1,576	1,359	217	16.0%	17,063	14,718	2,345	15.9%

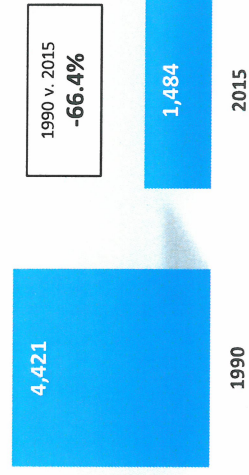
* The Revised Rape statistics reflect the revised and expanded FBI definition of what constitutes a Rape, which was changed in 2015. Only Historical Rape statistics are included in the sub-total for Violent Crimes and the Grand Total for Part I Crimes.



Murders



Aggravated Assaults



Grand Theft Auto

